



# National Congress Bulletin

DECEMBER 1955

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## Memo to Local Presidents:

AS you know, the theme for our new three-year administration action program is "The Family and the Community: Each Shapes the Other—The P.T.A. Serves Both." You will remember that the National Board of Managers at its September meeting held a series of buzz sessions to explore the ways in which the P.T.A. might improve and expand its services to the family and the community. The ideas and suggestions that resulted from these sessions are now being consolidated into an action program that will soon be ready\* for publication in the *Bulletin*.

- Meanwhile as we think about families and the many different communities in which they live, the school is always in the foreground of the family-community picture. To the school the family sends its children, hopefully expecting help with the training every child needs if he is to cope successfully with the personal and public problems of this atomic age. The family as well as the community expects the school to share in retaining and developing the moral, spiritual, and social values that are nurtured in the home and that give shape and direction to the community pattern.

- Parent-teacher leaders know that the educational opportunities a community makes available to its young people have a direct bearing on the measure of service these young people will render to the larger communities of state and nation. For the nation, then, the schools of the various communities must help prepare the man power to maintain the national security and economy; the statesmen qualified to lead the nation wisely; the religious leaders who can strengthen the moral and spiritual fabric of our living; and the enlightened citizens committed to preserving justice, peace, and freedom.

- Therefore vigorous, enlightened action on behalf of our schools is one of

our organization's most important services to the family, the local community, and the national community. By its structure, and its purposes, the parent-teacher association is eminently fitted to weld family, school, and community into an effective working partnership.

- This past week, from November 23 through December 1, the historic White House Conference on Education was held in Washington, D. C. Some two thousand men and women, representing the forty-eight states, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, and national organizations concerned with education (including our own National Congress), came together to analyze the educational problems that are of most concern today.

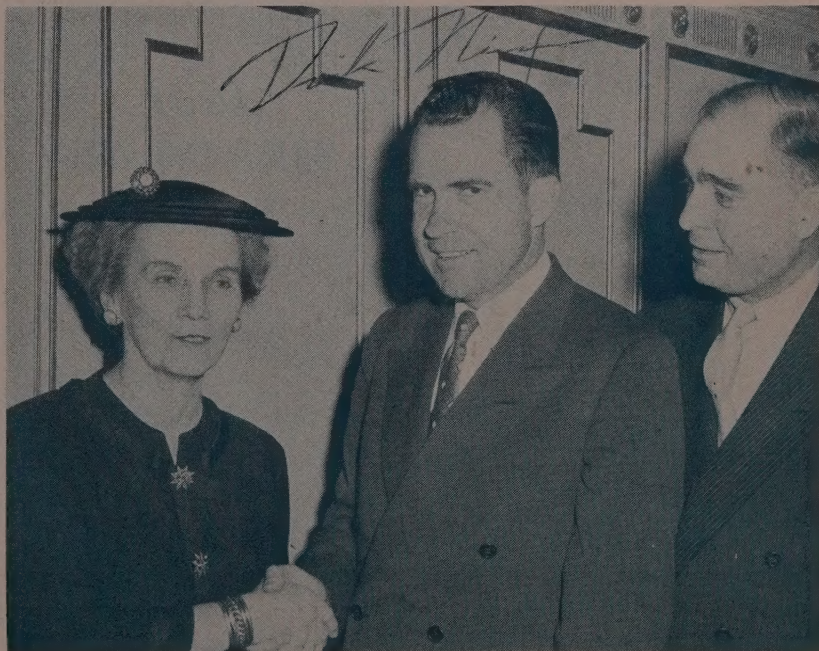
- They came, these representatives from all parts of the nation, to serve as advisers to the President of the United

States. They came with their own opinions and those of groups they represented. They were free to express and defend their own points of view and had opportunity to do so. They did their work well. In four days of strenuous labor they hammered out six reports defining and analyzing six critical issues and recommending possible solutions.

- The Conference participants did not come up with any easy answers to our difficult school problems. They affirmed the need for hard, steady, unremitting efforts at local, state, and federal levels.

- "From any fruition of success, no matter what," says the poet Walt Whitman, "shall come forth something to make greater struggle necessary." The Conference was not an end but a beginning—the beginning of a greater effort. The Conference findings and the Committee report will be studied by the

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• Vice-president Richard M. Nixon greets Mrs. Rollin Brown, National Congress president, and Gardiner Johnson, chairman of the California delegation to the Conference.





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President and his administration as a guide to federal action. But they must also be studied by all citizens.

● Here the P.T.A. has a most important role and an immediate task. We can ask our state delegates to the Conference to report on the Conference findings. We can provide opportunities for community study and discussion of the Conference reports. We can initiate, and participate in, local and state follow-up conferences.

● Public interest in education is high. We must keep it that way. We can—and we must—convert it into public action that will provide all that is needed for the kind of education we want for our children.

● And now, with Christmas approaching, I want to express my sincere wishes that all the joys and blessings of the season may be yours to enjoy to the utmost. May you have not only a happy, prosperous new year but one of reality and direction, and may you also have the courage and vision to follow through.

MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

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## A SPECIAL MESSAGE

from HELEN HAYES

*National Chairman of Women's Activities  
National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis  
To the . . .*

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

THE new year brings us the wonderful news that every day, more and more vaccine is available to protect our children from crippling polio. As members of the P.T.A., it is your privilege to share in the glow of accomplishment that comes with this good news, because your dimes and your dollars and your participation in the field trials made possible the blessing of the Salk vaccine.

But the new year also brings with it the sober realization that the fight against polio is not over and won't be until the vaccine is widely used by those who are most vulnerable to paralytic polio. It won't be over until every young mother in a wheel chair is back in her home, caring for children and running her family, and every father stricken with polio is able to be a breadwinner again. It won't be over until all little girls and boys in heavy braces and on crutches are given chances to overcome their disabilities so they can live happily again.

The polio program for 1956 is vitally concerned with repairing lives . . . the lives of 68,000 patients already stricken and all those who will be felled before the fight against polio is truly over. You who have waged this war know how vital it is now to press on to complete victory through the March of Dimes.



#### 1956 CONVENTION

- The 1956 convention of the National Congress will be held in San Francisco, California, on May 20, 21, 22, 23.

#### NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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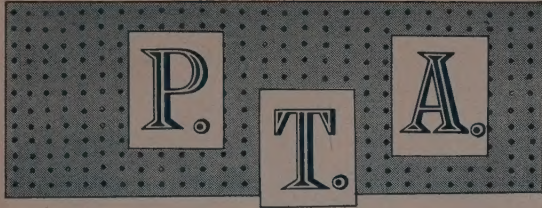
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**Our Goal: 10,000,000 Members  
by April 15, 1956**





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Brief Items of Current Interest



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- **ACKNOWLEDGING SUPPORT GIVEN** to the Ryukyus Command P.T.A. (Okinawa) by Maj. Gen. James E. Moore (right) who is commanding general of the Ryukyus Command, Col. Francis K. Newcomer, Jr., presents him and his wife with the first two 1955-56 P.T.A. membership cards. Lt. Col. Roy Glisson, Jr., chairman of the Ryukyus P.T.A. membership committee, looks on.
- **A "GOLDEN CHAPTER"** was added to the Alabama Congress' four-year record of proclaimed, state-wide N.P.T. Magazine Days in its fiftieth anniversary year. All local units were asked to aim at fifty or more magazine subscriptions and to put forth special efforts to top 1954 scores. An impressive total of 6,076 subscriptions was convincing proof that magazine couriers throughout the state are working constructively for the welfare of all children and youth.
- **WHOLESALE AND HELPFUL FILMS** for children is the aim of the Akron P.T.A. Vacation Movie Summer Program. Working closely with the Akron Council's chairman of audio-visual services and the director of visual aids of the Akron public schools, the manager of a local movie house schedules a dozen selected movies for as many Saturday mornings. Season-ticket rates bring the movies to young viewers for about eight cents per show.
- **EDUCATION FOR FAMILY LIVING** was the topic of discussion at a Jamieson P.T.A. (Chicago, Illinois) meeting. Dr. Franklin R. Fitch of the Illinois Society of Mental Hygiene, speaker of the evening, showed the film *Human Growth* and presided at the concluding question-answer session.

- **AN UNUSUAL ATTENDANCE PROBLEM** was reported by the Hawthorne School P.T.A., Beverly Hills, California. The local newspaper announced that "because of the limited seating capacity of the Hawthorne Auditorium, the annual fathers' night meeting is not open to the general public." The reason, we find, is that fathers in the cast of the play to be given included movie notables Van Johnson, Robert Cummings, Robert Young, John Mack Brown, and Cornel Wilde.
- **OBSERVING A TRADITIONAL PRACTICE** of going concerns, the Pumpkin Delight P.T.A. of Milford, Connecticut, summed up its accomplishments at its "January Inventory" meeting. Posters and pictures of projects, copies of programs, parent-teacher publications, a membership list, a copy of the budget—all served to prove that "business" was booming.
- **AT THE FALL P.T.A.** social meeting put on by the Cedar City Council (Utah), name cards shaped like oak leaves carried names of both the parent and his child. Thus, with one quick glance, it was easy for teachers to identify Johnnie's and Mary's mother and father.
- **MORE THAN 100 BILLBOARDS** in various parts of the state reminded New Jersey motorists of the children. It was at the invitation and expense of an outdoor advertising company that the New Jersey Congress was given an unusual opportunity to serve children, while publicizing parent-teacher interests. The safety messages appeared the day before schools opened and remained conspicuous for the rest of the month.



Unveiling the first of the New Jersey "Drive Carefully" billboards is (left to right): Leonard Dreyfuss, president of the Outdoor Advertising Association of New Jersey; Mrs. Victor Gaul and Mrs. A. G. Link, safety chairman and president of the New Jersey Congress; and W. R. Harris, vice-president of the advertising association.



- **FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR** members of the Allegheny County Council of P.T.A.'s (Pennsylvania) and the Principals' Round-table sat down together at a dinner held for the joint purpose of moving ever nearer to the parent-teacher goal stated in the fourth Object. More than 700 teachers, parents, supervisors, supervising principals, and superintendents listened to Dr. Kenneth McFarland, outstanding educational consultant, discuss "A United Approach to Education." The fact that only 300 persons attended the first joint dinner is one way of measuring the splendid success of the project.



• United in the fellowship of song, Pennsylvania parents and educators are lead by Frank Gullo, director of the Pennsylvania State College glee club. Dr. Hummel Fishburn, head of State's music department, is accompanist.

- **FREE BABY SITTING** is available for Meriden (New Hampshire) parents while they're at P.T.A. meetings! Twelve enterprising 4-H Club girls, offering an approximate total of 216 free hours for the village juniors, chalk up credit for a community service project and, at the same time, give a big boost to parents and the P.T.A.
- **OUT OF GAY FELT CHRISTMAS** stockings comes Christmas spirit that lingers on and on in Berkeley, California. After the Columbus School nurse discovered that many of the school's students urgently needed dental attention, P.T.A. members and other mothers began a stocking-decorating project to raise funds. Cooperating dentists were paid, a school emergency was met, and more parents were drawn into the P.T.A. program.

Stockings for the 1955-56 fund began to take form last spring.

- **A MODERN MAGIC CARPET** has unrolled for a pretty fourteen-year-old rheumatic fever victim. Sharon Paine is continuing her interrupted education by means of a school-to-home intercommunication system, sponsored by the Diamond P.T.A. of Clio, Michigan. The device consists of two speakers, one near Sharon's bed and the other a portable unit that is shifted from one classroom to another. Through the open lines Sharon has reentered her lively teen-age world and hopes to realize her dream of becoming a designer.



• Members of the Allegheny County Council of P.T.A.'s and the Principals' Round-table and guests enjoy a profitable evening together.

- **WITH A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL** as moderator, a panel consisting of six children (one from each school needing more room), a school board member, and the Great Falls (Montana) P.T.A. Council president put across an urgent message of school needs in a twenty-five minute telecast.
- **PARENTS AND STUDENTS** of Central High School, Scranton, Pennsylvania, had a chance to talk with thirty-three representatives of colleges, universities, and hospitals at the annual college night program held in the school. The conference program, following a dinner meeting, was sponsored by the Central High School P.T.A. as an observance of American Education Week.
- **A HALF-DAY HOLIDAY** with the blessings of their teachers was the reward to the entire student body of the Gen. William Moultrie High School (Charleston, South Carolina) for signing up their parents as members of the school's P.T.A. Every class reached its quota of enrolling at least one parent of each child. One class reported a 200 per cent enrollment and two others enrolled 180 per cent of the parents. The principal took off early for a week-end fishing trip.
- **YOU HAVE READ** this far. Did you enjoy these stories of P.T.A. achievements? Did you hit upon an idea or two for your own organization? Don't you get a sort of inside glow when you think of what can be accomplished when a basic interest is multiplied by the ideals and aspirations of thousands of P.T.A. members? Perhaps you've guessed—these questions are raised to help you realize that other associations want to share *your* ideas and items, too. *A new idea is news* and it belongs in "The Bulletin Board."